

# What's New in the MPDC

APRIL 30, 2001

## MPDC ANNOUNCES NEW RESOURCES FOR DEAF, HARD OF HEARING COMMUNITIES

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*Access the "Quick Guide to  
Contacting the MPDC" – including  
information on how to use 9-1-1,  
3-1-1 and MPDC hotlines – at:*

***www.mpd.org***  
***(Click on Telephone Directory)***

The MPDC has installed TTY devices in each of its police district stations and taken other measures to improve communications with the District's deaf and hard of hearing communities. The new TTY devices will enable individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to communicate more easily with district and PSA officials about ongoing crime problems, community policing activities and other routine matters affecting public safety in their communities. All residents should continue to use 9-1-1 for

emergencies and 3-1-1 for police non-emergencies (these toll-free numbers are TTY-compatible). In addition, the MPDC has entered into a service agreement with Birnbaum Interpreting to provide sign language interpreting for individuals who request it when stopped or questioned by the police. The Department is also printing cards that officers will carry explaining the rights of deaf and hard of hearing individuals in communicating with the police, and the Department has begun a program of ongoing training for police personnel on effectively serving the deaf and hard of hearing communities. For a quick guide on how deaf and hard of hearing residents can communicate with the MPDC, including a list of the new TTY numbers, go to:

**www.mpd.org (Click on Telephone Directory and go to the Quick Guide to Contacting the MPDC)**

## SMOOTH OPERATOR TARGETS RED-LIGHT RUNNERS, OTHER AGGRESSIVE DRIVERS

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Aggressive drivers cause crashes, injuries and deaths – to themselves and others. And with continued growth and growing demands on our roadways, aggressive driving is likely to get worse. That's why this year's regional Smooth Operator program will target red-light and stop sign runners in DC, Maryland and Virginia, as well as other forms of aggressive driving such as speeding, unsafe lane-changing and tailgating. The year's program will include four enforcement waves, in which police officers in the MPDC and other participating agencies will be stepping up traffic enforcement activity. The first enforcement wave runs from April 30 through May 6, with additional waves scheduled for June, July and August. To learn more about Smooth Operator, and view this year's logo, go to:

*Special efforts to target red-light runners are supported year-round by the District's automated enforcement (red-light camera) program. Get the details on the District's program – and read about a new study documenting the effectiveness of red-light cameras:*

***www.mpd.org***  
***(Click on Services & Programs)***

**www.mpd.org (Click on Services & Programs)**

## MPDC, OTHER AGENCIES SHARE IN FEDERAL DRUG PROCEEDS

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The MPDC and four other local and state agencies were presented this week with checks totaling \$1.4 million, representing money forfeited by drug dealers as a result of investigations conducted jointly by the FBI, U.S. Customs and the local and state agencies. The MPDC's share – \$484,644 – was the result of a variety of investigations, including the "Southwest Crew" from the Waterside Mall area, the "Congress Park Crew" near St. Elizabeth's Hospital and the Kevin Gray organization. The money can be used to pay for officers' salaries, buy equipment or fund drug demand-reduction programs. Read the complete news release at:

[www.mpdc.org](http://www.mpdc.org) (Click on News)

## MPDC, DC PUBLIC SCHOOLS KICK OFF ANTI-TRUANCY EFFORT

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DC's Public Schools and the MPDC are partnering on a new Attendance Support Initiative to promote consistent school attendance. An aggressive campaign to educate students about the importance of reporting to school on time began this past week with the distribution of Attendance Alert Cards to students who fail to report to school at the 8:45 am start time. MPDC officers are distributing wallet-sized red alert cards that provide contact information for the school system's Attendance Centers and encourage students to seek help if they are having problems with tardiness. The card also reminds students that attending school regularly is the law. See the complete news release at:

*School safety remains a key priority for the MPDC. Parents, teachers and students can access a variety of school safety resources by going to:*  
[www.mpdc.org](http://www.mpdc.org) (Click on Safety Tips)

[www.mpdc.org](http://www.mpdc.org) (Click on News)

## CHIEF RAMSEY UPDATES DC COUNCIL ON STATUS OF E-MAIL INVESTIGATION

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In testimony last week before a joint committee hearing of the DC Council, Chief Ramsey provided an update on the MPDC's ongoing investigation into offensive and inappropriate messages sent by a few police officers over the Department Mobile Digital Computer (MDC) network. Acknowledging that the actions of a few officers do tarnish the image of the entire Department, the Chief said the number of officers involved in the most serious violations appears to be lower than originally estimated. He described how the Department's Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) is dividing the messages into three levels of severity, based on key word searches involving 157 words and a thorough examination of the context in which the words were used. The OPR is focusing on the most serious, Level I cases, in which investigators are looking for instances in which offensive messages may be connected with biased policing or other forms of police misconduct. Read the Chief's complete statement to the Council at:

[www.mpdc.org](http://www.mpdc.org) (Click on News)

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*Information, ideas or comments about this service?*

*E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kmorison\\_mpdc@excite.com](mailto:kmorison_mpdc@excite.com).*

*Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with [crimereports.com](http://crimereports.com).*

**METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE**  
**WWW.MPDC.ORG**